Amendment   Docket No. PHFR 000041
Serial No. 09/836,096

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a **plurality** ~~set~~ of transcoding channels ~~(TC[1] to TC[n])~~, a transcoding channel ~~(TC[i])~~ allowing an input compressed data signal ~~(ICS[i])~~ encoded at an input bit rate ~~(Rin[i])~~ to be converted into an output compressed data signal ~~(OCS[i])~~ encoded at an output bit rate **wherein a regulation process uses quantization scales and the input compressed data signal to obtain the output bit rate** ~~(Rout[i])~~, said method of controlling comprising :

a step of computing an indicator of a compressed data quality for the respective transcoding channels, said indicator being computed from the input compressed data signal **independent of the regulation process** ~~(ICS[i])~~, **and**

a step of allocating the output bit rate ~~(Rout[i])~~ to the transcoding channel ~~(TC[i])~~ from a total output bit rate ~~(Rtot)~~, its corresponding indicator and a sum of the indicators of the transcoding channels.

2.   (Original) A method of controlling a set of transcoding channels as claimed in claim 1, wherein the indicator is computed from an average, over a set of encoded pictures, of a function of an average quantization scale over a picture and a number of bits used to encode the same picture.

3.   (Original) A method of controlling a set of transcoding channels as claimed in claim 2, wherein the indicator is computed from a weighted average of a set of the averages calculated over the set of encoded pictures.

4.   (Currently Amended) A controller ~~(CONT)~~ for controlling a set of transcoders ~~(TC[1] to TC[n])~~, a transcoder ~~(TC[i])~~ allowing an input compressed data signal ~~(ICS[i])~~ encoded at an input bit rate ~~(Rin[i])~~ to be converted into an output compressed data signal ~~(OCS[i])~~ encoded at an output bit rate **wherein a regulation**

2

Amendment
Serial No. 09/836,096

Docket No. PHFR 000041

**process uses quantization scales and the input compressed data signal to obtain the
output bit rate** (Rout[i]), said controller comprising :

~~means for computing~~ **a processor configured to determine** an indicator
of a compressed data quality for the respective transcoders, said indicator being
computed from the input compressed data signal **independent of the regulation process**
(ICS[i]), **and**

—————— ~~means for allocating~~ **allocate** the output bit rate (Rout[i]) to the
transcoder (TC[i]) from a total output bit rate (Rtot), its corresponding indicator and a
sum of the indicators of the transcoders.

5. (Currently Amended) A data multiplexing system comprising :

a set of transcoders (TC[1] to TC[n]) for converting input compressed
data signals (ICS[1] to ICS[n]) encoded at an input bit rate (Rin[1] to Ri[n]) into output
compressed data signals (OCS[1] to OCS[n]) encoded at an output bit rate, **wherein a
regulation process uses quantization scales and the input compressed data signal to
obtain the output bit rate** (Rout[1] to Rout[n]),

a controller (CONT) for controlling the set of transcoders and comprising :
means for computing an indicator of a compressed data quality for the respective
transcoders, said indicator being computed from the input compressed data signal
independent of the regulation process (ICS[i]),
means for allocating the output bit rate (Rout[i]) to the transcoder (TC[i]) from a total
output bit rate (Rtot), its corresponding indicator and a sum of the indicators of the
transcoders, **and**

a multiplexer (MUX) for providing a multiplexed data signal (MS) at
the total output bit rate (Rtot) by multiplexing of the output compressed data signals
(OCS[1] to OCS[n]).

6. (Original) A computer program product for a controller (CONT) that
comprises a set of instructions, which, when loaded into the controller, causes the
controller to carry out the method of controlling as claimed in claims 1 to 3.

3